

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.

COINER'S DEPARTMENT,

Dec. 8th, 1881.

Mr. A. Landon Snowden,
Superintendent,

Sir,

In reply to the request contained in your letter of this date, relative to the use of the Electric Light, I have the honor to state, that I have enquired of the foremen of the various rooms in which the lights are used, and I find that it is universally considered to be a better light than gas. I cannot find any one who would advise going back to gas. As you are aware we have two kinds of lights in use - the incandescent, and the arc - and the opinions expressed by the employes relates to which ever light they are

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are working by. This explanation is necessary because I find two opinions relative to the effect upon the eyes, coinciding, coming from rooms lighted by each. For instance, the Adjusting Room, is lighted by the incandescent light. Employees of that room report that their eyes have been strengthened, since the introduction of the electric light - that upon retiring from work, after the use of gas, they were unable to read without the use of spectacles, but now they find that they can read without glasses, after working under the electric light. From the Rolling Room, ⁱⁿ which the arc light is used, I hear the same story as to the strengthening

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Strengthening of the eyes. To avoid too great a strain on the eyes, shades were furnished, but after the eyes became somewhat accustomed to the new light these shades are gradually being abandoned - this is the case with employees working under both kinds of lights.

The incandescent lights burn steadily - they do not flicker in the least. Occasionally the volume of light is lessened, but the decrease of brilliancy does not affect the sight with pain, as the jerking or flickering of a flame would.

The only objection raised to the arc light is the flicker that it is subject to. All say that this is an annoyance, but it is not so mendacious as

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as the gas - that is, it is preferable to work with the flicker of the arc light, than to go back to gas.

As to the "precision of the work performed" under the electric light, as compared with gas, there is certainly no question.

The work can be better performed now than formerly, because the men can see better to do it. There are portions of the Rolling Room, for instance, better lighted under ^{the} electric lights, than they are in the day time, and pieces of metal can be more easily detected on the floor than ever before.

The same holds good as to the work of the Coining Room - defective planchets, or faulty pieces are more readily detected, and the machinery more

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more clearly observed.

The only improvement that now occurs to me would be some arrangement to secure perfect steadiness in the arc light, and thus avoid its only objection - the occasional flickering already alluded to.

My opinion of the respective merits of the two systems of illumination - gas and electricity, can be best summed up by that expressed by an employe ^{who}, when asked how he liked the new light, replied, "Splendid - don't want any better."

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant

Orb Dwyer
Coiner.

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,

COINER'S DEPARTMENT,

Dec. 8, 1881.

O. B. Bosbyshell

Coiner.

Report on the
Electric Light, in
the Coiner's Report=
ment

No. of Enclosures,

Rec'd Dec. 8th 1881.

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

8th December, 1881.

Sir;

You will please enquire into the results thus far obtained in your department by the use of the Electric light; the effect upon the workmen, the comparative value of the light with gas as affecting the precision of the work performed, and the comfort of the employes with such other information as you think of value in forming an opinion of the respective merits of the two systems of illumination.

Very respectfully

London Morrice
Superintendent

O. C. Rosbyshell Esq
Boston

[Letter One:]

[Abstract:] Report on the Electric Light, in the Coiner's Department.

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,
Coiner's Department,
December 8, 1881

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden,
Superintendent.

Sir;

In reply to the request contained in your letter of this date, relative to the use of the Electric Light, I have the honor to state, that I have enquired of the foremen of the various rooms in which the lights are used, and I find that it is universally considered to be a better light than gas. I cannot find any one who would advise going back to gas. As you are aware we have two kinds of lights in use – the incandescent, and the arc – and the opinions expressed by the employees relates to which ever light they are working by. This explanation is necessary because I find two opinions relative to the effect up on the eyes coinciding, coming from rooms lighted by each. For instance, the Adjusting Room, is lighted by the incandescent light. Employees of that room report that their eyes have been strengthened, since the introduction of the electric light – that upon retiring from work after the use of gas, they were unable to read without the use of spectacles, but now they find that they can read without glasses, after working under the electric light. From the Rolling Room, in which the arc light is used, I hear the same story as to the strengthening of the eyes. To avoid too great a strain on the eyes, shades were furnished, but after the eyes become somewhat accustomed to the new light these shades are gradually being abandoned – this is the case with employees working under both kinds of light. The incandescent lights burn steadily – they do not flicker in the least. Occasionally the volume of light is lessened, but the decrease of brilliancy does not affect the sight with pain, as the jerking or flickering of a flame would. The only objection raised to the arc light is the flicker that it is subject to. All say that this is an annoyance, but it is not so unendurable as the gas – that is, it is preferable to work with the flicker of the arc light, than to go back to gas.

As to the “precision of the work performed” under the electric light, as compared with gas, there is certainly no question. The work can be better performed now than formerly, because the men can see better to do it. There are portions of the Rolling Room, for instance, better lighted under the electric lights, than they are in the day time, and pieces of metal can be more easily detected on the floor than ever before. The same holds good as to the work of the Coining Room – defective planchets, or faulty pieces are more readily detected, and the machinery more clearly observed.

The only improvement that now occurs to me would be some arrangement to secure perfect steadiness in the arc light, and thus avoid its only objection – the occasional flickering already alluded to.

My opinion of the respective merits of the two systems of illumination – gas and electricity, can be best summed up by that expressed by an employee who, when asked how he liked the new light replied, “splendid – don’t want any better”.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant
O.C. Bosbyshell
Coiner.

[Letter Two:]

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,
Superintendent's Office,
December 8, 1881

Sir;

You will please enquire into the results thus far obtained in your department by the use of the Electric light; the effect upon the workmen, the comparative value of the light with gas as affecting the precision of the work performed, and the comfort of the employees with such other information as you think of value in forming an opinion of the respective merits of the two systems of illumination.

Very respectfully,
A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent

O.C. Bosbyshell, Esq.
Coiner